



07-22-09

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Express Mailing Label No. EV392156985US
Date of Deposit: July 21, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 21486-027DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Hopkins et al
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/722,279 EXAMINER: Javier G. Blanco
FILING DATE: November 24, 2003 ART UNIT: 3738
FOR: CARDIAC VALVE REPLACEMENT

July 21, 2004
Boston, Massachusetts

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Transmitted herewith for filing in the present application are the following documents:

- ☒ Preliminary Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement; and
- ☒ Return Postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (617) 542-6000, Boston, Massachusetts. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 21486-027DIV. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal Letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 21, 2004

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This paper is in response to the June 21, 2004, Restriction Requirement, in connection with the above-referenced application. Please enter the following amendments and consider the remarks below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.